

this stage Forester Selvaraj who is in-charge of the elephants took charge. Instead of letting Devaki go out into the jungle at night as usual he had her secured on the outskirts of the camp.

The second bout of pains set in at 8.40 p.m. and at 8.45 p.m. the first calf arrived—a normal birth, head first.

Devaki set to work cleaning the calf of the amniotic fluid with earth gathered from the area, and in 10 minutes the calf was able to get up.

At 9.00 p.m. the 2nd calf was born, also a normal birth. To Devaki who had given birth to four calves before this was something new and she kicked the calf aside, perhaps mistaking it for the placenta. The calf fell into a depression and Forester Selvaraj and his assistants dragged it aside and cleaned it of the birth fluid. This calf took half an hour to stand up. It took Devaki considerable time to get reconciled to the fact that the second calf was hers.

The calves were not weighed, but their weight, according to the Forester, was normal. They stood 2' 11" and 3' at the shoulder—the average height at birth being 3'.

Tara, another cow elephant at the camp gave birth to twins some five years previously. Only one of the calves survived and the other was presumed to be a still birth. These calves were born in the jungle as in the majority of cases.

But for Forester Selvaraj's initiative and the care and attention he and his staff bestowed on Devaki; the 2nd calf would have surely been trampled and written off as a still birth if it had been discovered at all in the jungle. This may, perhaps, be the reason why twins are thought to be so rare among elephants.

'CANOWIE',  
COONOR-1,  
NILGIRIS,

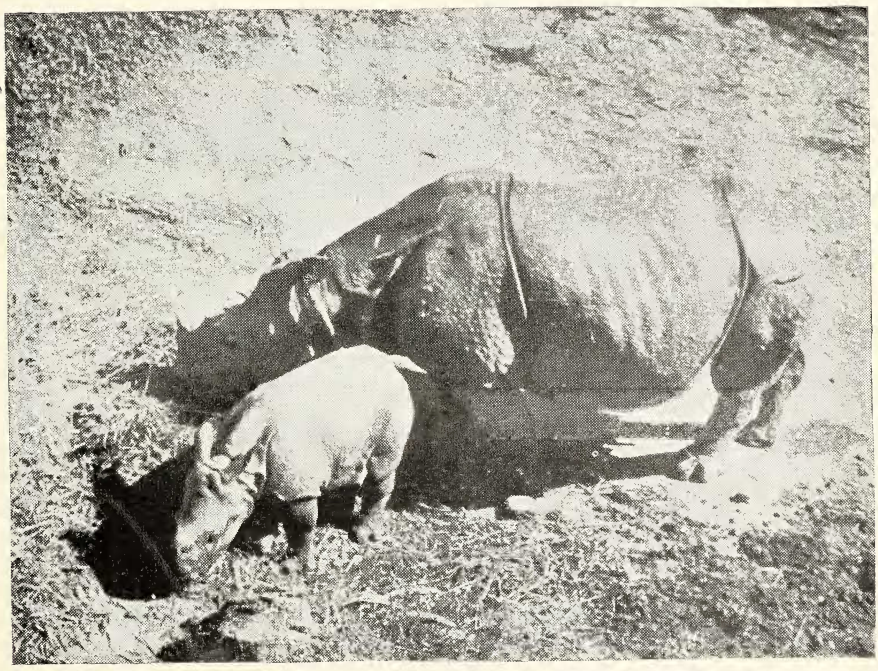
August 11, 1971.

PRIYA DAVIDAR

#### 4. BREEDING OF THE INDIAN RHINOCEROS (*RHINOCEROS UNICORNIS*) AT DELHI ZOOLOGICAL PARK

(With a plate)

The Great Indian One-horned Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), like all rhinoceroses, does not breed readily in captivity. Till 1960, only five calves were born in captivity. One reason for few rhino births in captivity might be the violent battles that take place between the sexes



*Above* : The Parents.

*Below* : Rhino Baby and Mother at Delhi Zoological Park.





which discourages zoo authorities from keeping them together. During the last ten years, however, more Indian rhinos have been bred in captivity. The International Zoo Yearbook, Volume 10, published in 1970 by the Zoological Society of London, lists twelve births of Indian rhinoceros in captivity.

The Delhi Zoological Park obtained 'Mohan' a male Great Indian Rhinoceros in December, 1965. It was three and a half years old when it came to the zoo. Later in March, 1968, a female 'Rongi' of about six years of age was brought to the Zoo from Gauhati, Assam.

The rhino enclosure at the Park is an open air enclosure of about an acre in area. The enclosure has a luxuriant growth of naturally growing trees and undergrowth of *Prosopis juliflora*. In the centre of the enclosure, a wallow has been provided. The enclosure has a few cells and a large enclosed paddock where the animals could be kept separately.

Rongi, arrived at the zoo in the evening of 28th March, 1968, and was kept in the paddock. 'Mohan' was at that time kept in the outer enclosure. It was observed that Mohan was very interested in Rongi but she was very restless for the first few days. Later both used to smell and see each other. It was then decided to introduce her to Mohan. However, it was not without anxiety as it was known that rhinoceros did not readily live together in captivity. In fact, a pair at Whipsnade Zoo had fought and the female was eventually removed to Regent's Park, London. A pair at Chicago, USA, had never become reconciled to each other.

Precautions were therefore taken to avert any possible trouble. In the early morning hours of April 14, 1968, about 20 keepers and attendants stood by with crackers, tin cans and bamboo sticks. The partition door between the paddocks and the main enclosure was gradually opened. At 7.00 a.m. Mohan and Rongi met for the first time in the middle of the enclosure. The male was more interested in mounting but the female kept him at a distance. She looked apprehensive, broke off and ran away several times. After about an hour, both settled down, the male went to the mud wallow and the female was seen eating green fodder. Fortunately, there was no fight and the two settled down in course of time.

The female came into oestrus on 4th January, 1969 for the first time but the male remained indifferent and mating did not take place. She again came in oestrus on 22nd September, 1969. This time, the male was continuously seen chasing the female in the enclosure and also in the moat. The female, however, broke off and ran away several times. At about 1.00 p.m. a very fierce fight took place between the